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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,286	04/12/2004	David Michael Prokop		2976

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FELLERS, SNIDER, BLANKENSHIP, BAILEY & TIPPENS, PC
100 NORTH BROADWAY
SUITE 1700
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102-8820

EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, MARK A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3673

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,286

Applicant(s)

PROKOP, DAVID MICHAEL

Examiner

MARK A. WILLIAMS

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-7 and 15-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

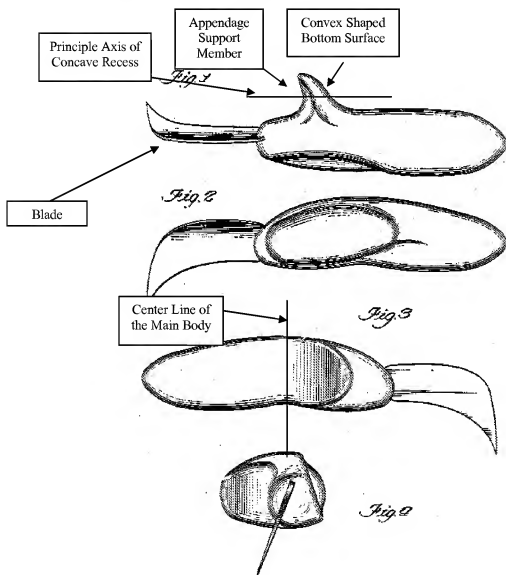
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skelton, US Patent Des.119,400. See attached figure below. A knife comprising a blade member having a cutting edge; and a handle comprising a main body portion; and an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface (depending on how the handle is oriented at any particular time) that provides a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion (not necessarily a longitudinal centerline), and the appendage support member having a substantially continuous convex shaped surface over a majority of the bottom surface to provide an ergonomic support surface for an appendage of a user. The appendage support

member is ergonomically shaped to be capable of (in a broad sense) accommodating a placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of the user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent the substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from the centerline of the main body portion. The concave recess is ergonomically shaped to be capable of (in a broad sense) accommodating the first appendage, and wherein the first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user. The substantially continuous convex shaped surface over the majority of the bottom surface of the appendage support member is ergonomically shaped to be capable of (in a broad sense) accommodating the second appendage, and wherein the second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user. The concave recess comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member. The concave recess is dimensioned to accommodate the thumb of an average adult. The main body portion comprises a

first relatively thin portion near a proximal end of said handle, a second relatively thin portion near a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is relatively thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.



Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims of record have been considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the applied art does not provide a longitudinal center line, as amended, and that one skilled in the art would understand that this distinction is not found in the applied art. However, it is the position of the examiner that the term "longitudinal" in and of itself as presented in the claim language does nothing to limit the claim language since virtually any direction can be broadly considered a longitudinal direction. Applicant has provided no particular limiting language defining a longitudinal direction as being that which is conventionally considered a longitudinal direction. The claims have not been sufficiently amended to overcome the applied art of record.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the

advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK A. WILLIAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark A. Williams/
Examiner, Art Unit 3673

/Peter M. Cuomo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3673